

Forest Service



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Involving the American Public

The Forest Service in 1987



Partnerships, such as those with private outfitters and guide services, allow visitors to enjoy unique opportunities on the national forests.

In recent years, the American people have increasingly expressed new concerns and desires for the national forests. Accordingly, the Forest Service has intensified its public involvement efforts to include all segments of society in planning and managing *their* forests. The results of these efforts were clearly evident in all agency activities in 1987. In response to what the public said, the agency endeavored to bring management of the national forests into better balance—to reemphasize management for a variety of benefits and uses. More than just asking for their comments though, the Forest Service has asked the American people to work side by side with the agency to ensure that activities they want on the forests can and will be allowed in a quality environment.

Forest Planning

The need to shift the emphasis of national forest management became more evident through national forest

planning—a process in which managers use scientific and socioeconomic tools to determine the best use of forest resources, both to help meet current demands and ensure that adequate supplies will be available for future generations. It is a continuing process that responds to changes in the demands made upon the Nation's supply of natural resources. An integral part of this effort is public participation, through which the Forest Service actively seeks the views of a variety of forest users in order to develop the best strategy for forest management.

Of 123 forest plans (encompassing 156 national forests) being developed under the National Forest Management Act of 1976, 20 were finalized in 1987, bringing the national total to 85. Currently, 37 plans are published in draft form, with the Tongass National Forest Plan not scheduled for revision until 1989.

Following are other highlights of the 1987 accomplishments of the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, in caring for the land and serving people.

Wildlife and Fish

The National Forest System contains the greatest diversity of wildlife and fish

of any single land ownership in the country. These resources are valuable assets of the national forests, generating nearly 33.6 million visitor days of recreation for hunters, fishermen, bird watchers, and others. The combined annual value of recreational hunting and fishing on the National Forest System is estimated at \$643 million. The Forest Service manages animal habitats on these lands and cooperates with State agencies in managing animal and fish populations. These management programs are developed as part of the forest planning process. During 1987, the public stressed its strong interest in maintaining and improving fish and wildlife habitats. The public also became an active partner in the process.

Through Challenge Cost-Share projects, the fishery and wildlife communities reemphasized their continuing support for these programs. In 1987, Congress authorized \$1.5 million to fund Challenge Cost-Share projects on national forest lands, and "matching" contributions exceeding \$2.6 million were provided by groups such as the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and Trout Unlimited; private individuals; and public

¹ Throughout this publication, 1987 refers to the fiscal year from October 1, 1986, to September 30, 1987, unless otherwise specified.

agencies. These funds were used for a variety of projects including improving forest habitat for deer, elk, grouse, turkey, and songbirds; developing wetlands; building nesting boxes; and improving fish habitat.

Fish habitat was also enhanced through "Rise to the Future—Fish Your National Forests," a fisheries renewal program implemented during the year. The program aggressively integrates fish habitat management into the overall goals of national forest management to meet the projected doubling in fisheries demand over the next 50 years.

Recreation Management

The need for increased outdoor recreation opportunities was also expressed by the American people, most recently through the work of the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors. Because more outdoor recreation activities (over 40 percent) take place on National Forest System lands than on any other public lands in the United States, the Forest Service is largely responsible for providing these opportunities. In 1987, the Forest Service began work on a new National Recreation Strategy to meet these needs through partnerships, joint ventures, and cost-share projects similar to those in agency wildlife and fisheries programs. While the new strategy was in the early stages of development at the end of the year, there was much enthusiasm for the idea from both traditional and nontraditional national forest users. As a result, the development of outdoor recreation opportunities on the national forests will continue to receive major emphasis.

Timber Programs

The Forest Service manages timber resources to help ensure a continuing supply of timber products, such as lumber and paper, to meet America's needs. National forests provide about 15 percent of the total wood volume harvested annually in the United States. In 1987, a record 12.7 billion board feet of timber were harvested on National Forest System lands.

In 1984, questions and concerns about the cost-effectiveness of some timber sales prompted Congress to direct the Forest Service to develop a system displaying costs and benefits of the timber sale program. As a result, the Timber Sale Program Information Reporting System (TSPIRS) was developed. A final report on TSPIRS was given to Congress in April 1987. TSPIRS presents information in three reports: a financial account that displays the costs and revenues of the

timber sale program in the fiscal year; a display of the economic effects of that same program on resources, including the impact on wildlife and fisheries, recreation, water, and range, beyond the immediate year; and a display of the effects of the timber sale program on the economy of local communities. In 1987, 12 national forests implemented the system. During the coming year, the program will be refined and, by 1989, the agency plans to implement TSPIRS on all 156 national forests.

Fire Management—A Busy Year in 1987

Through the Fire and Aviation Management Staff, the Forest Service not only provides fire protection on National Forest System lands but also provides technical and financial assistance on 877 million acres of State-protected lands. This is accomplished through activities such as fire prevention and suppression, aviation management, and fuels management. Working together with State, local, and other Federal fire protection agencies, Forest Service personnel not only provided a high degree of professional firefighting ability but also provided this service at the lowest possible cost.

The 1987 fire season, including the "Fires of September," was the most destructive for National Forest System lands since 1929, in terms of both acres burned and resource values lost. During the year, more than 2,000 fires burned 850,000 acres on National Forest System lands at a cost of over \$260 million. It was a year in which 10 firefighters lost their lives while protecting the Nation's wildlands.

The grim season dramatized the potential for serious fires in urban/wildland interface areas—those areas where forests and homes meet and intermingle. In light of these concerns, the Forest Service, in conjunction with the U.S. Fire Administration and the National Fire Protection Association, initiated a program to educate the public about the fire problems that arise when an urban population chooses to live in a "natural" setting. Cooperating fire management agencies also hope to stimulate State and local governments to implement preventive measures and to provide professional expertise in order to create a more fire-safe environment in areas under their jurisdiction. Initial products of the program include the publication "Wildfire Strikes Home" and a videotape program provided to all agencies and the Public Broadcasting System. These learning tools portray the problems to be found in wildland/urban interface areas and offer suggestions for dealing with them.

Tree-Planting Activities

Tree-planting activities on nonindustrial forest lands continue to result in record-breaking reforestation activity. In 1987, tree-seedling production topped the 2-billion mark for the first time. Under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), established as part of the Food Security Act of 1985, about 1.3 million acres of highly erodible land were planted to trees. The CRP tree-planting program has proven to be the largest such program in history.

In addition to trees planted through CRP, Constitution Trees marking the Bicentennial of the Constitution were



Between August and September, over 11,000 lightning strikes started approximately 1,900 fires.

planted throughout the Nation. The Constitution Tree project was singled out by the National Bicentennial Commission as one of exceptional merit. From the opening ceremony on September 17, 1986, to the 200th anniversary of the Constitution 1 year later, these living legacies to the founders of our Government were planted at Forest Service offices and on national forest, State, and private lands throughout the United States.

Research

The Forest Service operates the largest forestry research program in the world. Forest Service research activities extend to nearly every major land-based ecosystem and focus on areas of broad public debate, as well as areas that involve more than one natural resource. The agency is currently conducting more than 2,800 research projects.

Included is research involving one of the major environmental issues in the United States—the effects of acid rain and air pollutants. Forest Service research focuses on determining the chemical characteristics of atmospheric deposition, or acid rain, and its effect on various ecosystems. The agency is also evaluating the current chemical makeup of wildlands to find out whether or not land and water resources are changing in response to acid rain. This research is being done under the umbrella of the interagency National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program.

In conjunction with State and Private Forestry, the Research arm of the Forest Service is also studying the problems of

1987 Statistics

Receipts	\$1.45 billion
Expenditures	\$2.3 billion
Permanent full-time employees	27,400
Woodland owners assisted	158,353
Forest lands burned	850,000 acres
Human resource programs	80,718 people trained
Research publications	2,237
National Forest System	191 million acres
Wilderness	32.4 million acres
Roads maintained	344,000 miles
Trails	102,507 miles
Recreation use	238.4 million visitor-days
Timber sold	11.3 billion board feet
Timber harvested	12.7 billion board feet
Grazing permits administered	12,489
Livestock grazed	9.9 million animal unit months
Wildlife and fish habitat improvements	124,138 acres
Mineral cases processed	25,104
Watershed improvements	17,433 acres

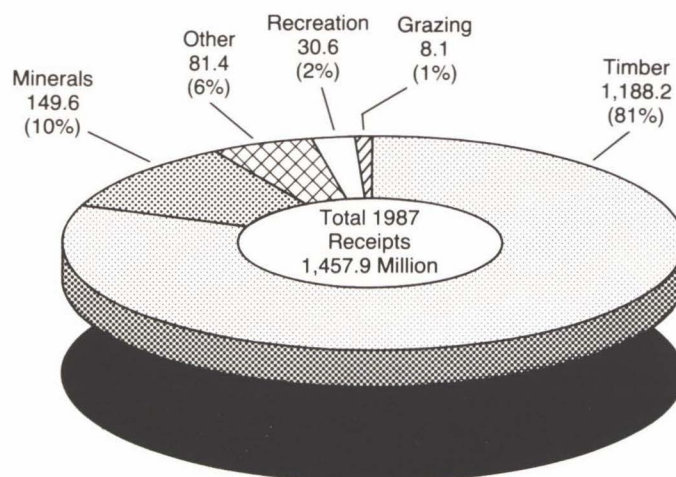
forest management in the wildland/urban interface. In addition to the increased potential for fire disaster, researchers are also looking at the changing nature of recreation activity on forests adjacent to large populations. The Research programs concentrate on improved communication and education, accelerated rehabilitation of heavily used areas, fire hazard appraisal, fire-behavior predictions, and land use planning.

A third area on which the agency is focusing attention is the critical inter-

action between wildlife and fish and timber management activity. Complying with both the Endangered Species Act and the National Forest Management Act can result in conflict between the objectives of protecting wildlife and providing a consistent flow of other forest products. One such conflict exists in the Pacific Northwest between the need to harvest old-growth Douglas-fir and the need to maintain sufficient habitat for the northern spotted owl. Research has shown that, in a somewhat similar situation in Florida, timber harvests could be increased up to 20 percent without compromising the red-cockaded woodpecker's habitat. The agency has begun planning for similar research on Sitka black-tailed deer in Alaska, grizzly bears in Montana, deer and elk in Oregon, and cold-water fish habitat in the Appalachian Mountains.

Distribution of Receipts by Program

(Million Dollars)



National Pilot Study

The Forest Service is listening to its employees as well as to the public. Through the National Pilot Study, the agency has been testing less stringent control structures to encourage innovation and creativity. Test results through 1987 were extremely positive and exciting. The study has resulted in a reduction in bureaucratic costs and workloads with a corresponding improvement in productivity, employee morale, and service to the public. A renewed organizational spirit among employees is generating thousands of new ideas for achieving the Forest Service mission—caring for the

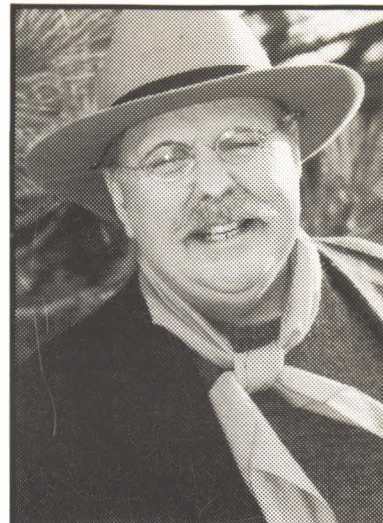
land and serving people—more efficiently and effectively. These results drew increased attention from other government and private organizations and encouraged us to expand the study to additional work units within the Forest Service in 1988.

Continued Public Involvement

Throughout 1987, as mentioned earlier, the Forest Service continued to invite the American people to participate in the management of their national forests. One example was the agency's Natural Resource and Environmental Education Program (NREE), which set in motion a long-range approach to raising public awareness and appreciation for natural resource management. Through materials linked to real environmental issues, NREE

education modules are designed to motivate the public to participate knowledgeably in natural resource management activities. This year, in partnership with the American Forestry Association and the North American Association of Environmental Education, NREE designed modules on intensive forest management, old-growth, and wilderness.

"Forests For Us," a related communications campaign to actively involve the public in caring for the land through volunteerism, also began this year. Forests For Us encourages people to learn more about "America's Forever Forests" and to donate their talents to forest-improvement projects that serve as working classrooms. Using well-known spokespersons such as Lloyd Bridges, "Forests For Us" invites people to share in the "miracle of the forest."



Let us tell you about America's "Forever Forests."

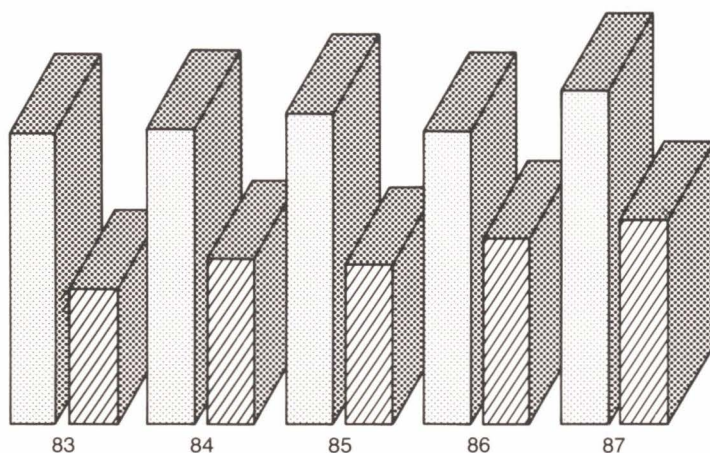
They stretch all the way from Alaska's Chugach National Forest to Puerto Rico's Caribbean National Forest. They're one of our greatest treasures.

President Theodore Roosevelt established the U.S. Forest Service back in 1905. The amazing thing is there are more forestlands today than there were when Roosevelt was President. Come see for yourself. There's a National Forest within a day's drive of most Americans. And get involved with the new "Forests For Us" program and tell people all about the Miracle of the Forest.

FORESTS FOR
US

Forest Service — USDA

Expenditures and Receipts



(Million Dollars)

Expenditures	2,061	2,095	2,199	2,078	2,351
Receipts	966	1,184	1,133	1,321	1,458
Receipts as percent of expenditures	46.9%	56.5%	51.5%	63.5%	62.0%

The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, is responsible for Federal leadership in forestry. It carries out this role through four main activities:

- Protection and management of resources on 191 million acres of National Forest System lands.
- Cooperation with State and local governments, forest industries, and private landowners to help protect and manage non-Federal forest and associated range and watershed lands.
- Research on all aspects of forestry, rangeland management, and forest resources utilization.
- Participation with other agencies in human resource and community assistance programs to improve living conditions in rural areas.